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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A method for extracting information from the Internet, the method programmed in a computer-readable medium to be executed by a processor operably connected thereto, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving text from a user as the exclusive form of user input, wherein the text is a collection of words each having multiple meanings depending on context of use, at least one of which meanings is descriptive of information sought;

deriving a micro-context corresponding to the meaning ~~for the text by examining a user's activities on the user's computer~~ text and comprising a plurality of words, each assigned a relative weighting derived from patterns of occurrence thereof in at least one of a previous query submitted by the user and a result returned in response to a previous query submitted by the user,

locating the information that matches the micro-context in a database; and
presenting the information to a user.

22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the database comprises a corpus indexed by macro-context.

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24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of locating information that matches the micro-context in a database comprises searching through indices in the database corresponding to the macro-contexts and returning the information linked to indices where the macro-contexts correlate to the micro-context.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of presenting the information to a user comprises presenting the information in a format selected by a user, the format being independent of a hierarchical schema of the database, for arranging the information.

26. (original) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of gathering additional information relevant to the text from the Internet.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, ~~further comprising the step of tracking a user's navigation through the Internet to develop micro-contexts relevant to a user~~ wherein deriving a micro-context further comprises assigning a relative weighting to each word of the plurality of words based on patterns of occurrence thereof in web pages accessed by the user during the user's navigation through the Internet

28. (original) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of automatically updating the information periodically after the step of presenting the information to a user.

29-40. (cancelled)

41. (currently amended) A method for extracting information from the Internet, the method programmed in a computer-readable medium to be executed by a processor operably connected thereto, the method comprising:

mining to gather and organize information from the Internet to form a database having a hierarchal schema;

acquiring from a user a textual query from a user comprising a collection of words each having multiple meanings depending on context of use, at least one of which meanings is descriptive of information sought by the user;

deriving a micro-context corresponding to the ~~meaning for the~~ textual query by ~~examining a user's activities on the user's computer and comprising a plurality of words, each assigned a relative weighting derived from patterns of occurrence thereof in web pages accessed by the user during the user's navigation through the Internet;~~

operating independently from the hierarchal schema to locate a subset of the information in the database, the subset corresponding to the micro-context; and

presenting the subset to a user.

42-43. (canceled)

44. (currently amended) The method of claim 43, ~~wherein examining a user's activities on the user's computer further comprises reviewing 41, wherein deriving a micro-context further comprises assigning a relative weighting to each word of the plurality of words based on prior Internet searches conducted by the user.~~

45. (currently amended) The method of claim 44, ~~wherein examining a user's activities on the user's computer further comprises reviewing the~~ wherein deriving a micro-context further comprises assigning a relative weighting to each word of the plurality of words based on results produced by prior Internet searches conducted by the user.

46-48. (canceled)

49. (currently amended) The method of claim 41, ~~wherein deriving a micro-context of the textual query comprises reviewing the results produced by~~ wherein deriving a micro-context further comprises assigning a relative weighting to each word of the plurality of words based on prior Internet searches conducted by the user to gather information regarding contexts important to the user.

50. (canceled)

51. (currently amended) A method for extracting information from the Internet, the method programmed in a computer-readable medium to be executed by a processor operably connected thereto, the method comprising:

gathering and organizing information from the Internet to form a database having a schema;

acquiring ~~from a user~~ a textual query ~~from a user~~ comprising a collection of words each having multiple meanings depending on context of use, at least one of which meanings is descriptive of information sought by the user;

~~deriving a micro-context comprising a coherent group of words corresponding to the meaning for the query by examining a user's activities on the user's computer to gather information regarding contexts important to the user~~ corresponding to the textual query and comprising a plurality of words, each assigned a relative weighting derived from patterns of occurrence thereof in at least one of a previous query submitted by the user, a result returned in response to a previous query submitted by the user, and a web page accessed by the user during the user's navigation through the Internet;

operating independently from the schema to locate a subset of the information in the database, the subset corresponding to the micro-context;

acquiring from the user a hierarchy of arrangement for the subset of the information; and presenting to the user the subset of information according to the hierarchy of arrangement.

52-53. (canceled)